

NEWS RELEASE

From the Office of the Indiana Attorney General

Contact

Erin Reece - Consumer PIO

317.232.0168

Bryan Corbin - Policy/Litigation PIO

317.233.3970

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Gary receives check for Unclaimed Property *Attorney General Greg Zoeller reminds Northwest Indiana residents millions are waiting to be claimed*

GARY, Ind. — Residents in Northwest Indiana have millions of dollars that's been forgotten - **\$37,965,656.69** to be exact. Of that nearly \$38 million, \$25,339.61 belongs to the City of Gary. Indiana Attorney General Greg Zoeller stopped by Gary City Hall today to present Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson with the City's unclaimed property check and remind residents to search for their own unclaimed property.

"This is an excellent reminder to search the unclaimed property database. In every county around the state Hoosiers have money they have forgotten about or never knew existed. It is my duty to inform Hoosiers how to find and claim it. This money belongs to someone and I'm encouraging people to search for themselves, and their family, friends and neighbors," Zoeller said. "With more than \$350 million waiting to be claimed it is my goal to make sure this money finds its way back to the rightful owners."

Zoeller encouraged all Hoosiers to visit www.IndianaUnclaimed.com as well as download the new, free mobile application to search for unclaimed property belonging to themselves, friends, relatives or neighbors. Businesses and charities can also have unclaimed property.

Financial institutions and other holders are required annually to turn over the assets of accounts in which there has been no activity for several years, depending on the type of account. Unclaimed property includes investment earnings, insurance proceeds and benefits, wages, and money from savings and checking accounts. Less than one percent of unclaimed assets are tangible, physical items, such as those found in safe-deposit boxes. **It is important to note that unclaimed property does NOT include abandoned vehicles, real estate or other such items.**

In 2011, more than **85,000 new properties** valued at more than **\$9.8 million dollars** were reported and originate from the five county Northwest Indiana region. This money belongs to residents or former residents of the area or their heirs. The state holds these assets for 25 years after they are reported.

The total value and number of properties added to the Unclaimed Property database in 2011 and the sum of all unclaimed property from 2000 - 2011 from counties in the Northwestern region are listed below:

County	2011 Property Totals	Total \$ Value added in 2011	Total \$ Value Claimable
Jasper	2,474	\$140,764.06	\$549,051.50
La Porte	10,262	\$1,048,453.40	\$4,456,079.94
Lake	54,581	\$6,788,773.35	\$26,934,125.55
Newton	848	\$83,852.20	\$326,057.90
Porter	17,003	\$1,743,009.22	\$5,700,341.80
Grand Total	85,168	\$9,804,852.23	\$37,965,656.69

In total, the state's unclaimed property database holds more than **\$350 million** in assets. In 2011, the Attorney General's Office **returned** more than 77,000 properties totaling **\$44.3 million** in unclaimed property. Last year, more than **\$4.1 million** was returned to individuals with last known addresses in Northwest Indiana.

Every year, the attorney general is required to advertise the list of unclaimed property turned over to the state during the previous year. The announcements run twice in a two week period in the newspaper closest to the last known address of the property owner.

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Below are the listing dates for the Northwest Indiana region only.

County	Newspaper	Dates of Publication
Lake	<i>THE MUNSTER TIMES</i>	May 17 & May 27
LaPorte	<i>MICHIGAN CITY NEWS DISPATCH</i>	May 17 & May 26
Porter	<i>CHESTERTON TRIBUNE</i>	May 17 & May 25
Newton	<i>NEWTON COUNTY ENTERPRISE</i>	May 16 & May 23
Jasper	<i>RENSSELAER REPUBLICAN</i>	May 16 & May 26

A public awareness campaign highlighting where Hoosiers can look for unclaimed property includes newspaper, radio, online and television ads. Also added to the campaign this year is a new, free mobile application that allows Hoosiers to search and begin a claim for unclaimed property free from their iPhone or Android.

The Unclaimed Property database can be searched 24-hours a day, 7 days a week at www.IndianaUnclaimed.com. The Unclaimed Property Division's toll-free number is **1-866-IN-CLAIM (1-866-462-5246)**. This is a free service of the Indiana Attorney General's Office.

Media Contact:

Jaime Barb
Office of the Indiana Attorney General
317-883-4558
Jaime.Barb@atg.in.gov